

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 1777.

Whitehall, August 25, 1777.

THE following Letter from Lieutenant-General Burgoyne to Lord George Germain was received the 23d Instant, by Captain Gardner, First Aid de Camp to Lieutenant-General Burgoyne, who arrived in the Royal George Armed Transport from Quebec.

Head Quarters, Skeneborough House,
July 11, 1777.

MY LORD,

IHAVE the Honour to acquaint your Lordship, that the Enemy dislodged from Ticonderoga and Mount Independence on the 6th Instant, and were driven on the same Day beyond Skeneborough on the Right, and to Hubertson on the Left, with the Loss of 128 Pieces of Cannon, all their Armed Vessels and Bateaux, the greatest Part of their Baggage and Ammunition, Provision and Military Stores to a very large Amount.

This Success has been followed by Events equally fortunate and rapid. I subjoin such a Detail of Circumstances as the Time will permit; and, for His Majesty's further Information, I beg Leave to refer your Lordship to Captain Gardner, my Aid de Camp, whom I have thought it necessary to dispatch with News so important to the King's Service, and so honourable to the Troops under my Command.

Journal of the late principal Proceedings of the Army.

HAVING remained at Crown Point Three Days, to bring up the Rear of the Army, to establish the Magazines and the Hospital, and to obtain Intelligence of the Enemy, on

June 30, I ordered the advanced Corps, consisting of the British Light Infantry and Grenadiers, the 24th Regiment, some Canadians and Savages, and Ten Pieces of Light Artillery, under the Command of Brigadier-General Frazer, to move from Putnam Creek, where they had been encamped some Days, up the West Shore of the Lake to Four Mile Point, so called from being within that Distance of the Fort of Ticonderoga. The German Reserve, consisting of the Brunswick Chasseurs, Light Infantry and Grenadiers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Breyman, were advanced at the same Time upon the East Shore.

July 1. The whole Army made a Movement forward. Brigadier Frazer's Corps occupied the strong Post called Three Mile Point on the West Shore; the German Reserve the East Shore opposite; the Right Wing of the Line encamped at Four Mile Point; the Left Wing nearly opposite on the East Shore. The Royal George and Inflexible Frigates, with the Gun Boats, were anchored just without the Reach of the Enemy's Batteries. The rest of the Fleet had been some Time without Guns, in order to assist in carrying Provisions over Lake Champlain.

The Enemy appeared to be posted as follows: A Brigade occupied the old French Lines upon the Height Northward of the Fort of Ticonderoga. These Lines were in good Repair, and had several Intrenchments behind them, chiefly calculated to guard the North-West Flank, and they were further sustained by a Blockhouse. To the Left of these Works about a Mile, the Enemy had Sawmills, and a Post sustained by a Blockhouse, and another Blockhouse, and an Hospital at the Entrance of Lake George. Upon the Right of the French Lines, and between them and the old Fort, there were two new Blockhouses, and a considerable Battery close to the Water-edge.

It seemed that the Enemy had employed their chief Industry, and were in greatest Force, upon Mount Independence, which is high and circular; and upon the Summit, which is Table land, were a Star Fort made with Pickets and well supplied with

Artillery, and a large Square of Barracks within it.

The Foot of the Mount, which projects into the Lake, was intrenched and covered with a strong Abatis close to the Water. This Intrenchment was lined with heavy Artillery pointing down the Lake, flanking the Water-battery above described, and sustained by another Battery about half-way up the Mount. On the West Side the Mount runs the main River, and in its Passage round is joined by the Water which comes down from Lake George. On the East Side of the Mount the Water forms a small Bay, into which falls a Rivulet, after having encircled in its Course Part of the Mount to the South East. The Side to the South could not be seen, but was described as inaccessible. There was a Bridge between the Mount and Ticonderoga, which also was unseen.

July 2. About Nine in the Morning a Smoke was observed towards Lake George, and the Indians brought in a Report that the Enemy had set Fire to their further Blockhouse and had abandoned the Saw Mills; and that a considerable Body were advancing from the Lines towards a Bridge upon the Road which led to the Right of the British Camp. A Detachment of the advanced Corps was immediately put in March under Brigadier Frazer, supported by a Brigade of the Line and some Artillery, under the Command of Major-General Phillips, with Orders to proceed towards Mount Hope, which is to the North of the Lines, to reconnoitre the Enemy's Position, and to take Advantage of any Post they might abandon or be driven from.

The Indians under Captain Frazer, supported by his Company of Marksmen, were directed to make a Circuit to the Left of Brig. Frazer's Line of March, and endeavour to cut off the Retreat of the Enemy to their Lines; but this Design miscarried through the Impetuosity of the Indians, who attacked too soon, and in Front, and the Enemy were thereby able to retire with the Loss of one Officer and a few Men killed, and one Officer wounded. Major-General Phillips took Possession of the very advantageous Post of Mount Hope this Night, and the Enemy were thereby entirely cut off from a Communication with Lake George.

July 3. Mount Hope was occupied in Force by Brigadier Frazer's whole Brigade, the First Brigade British, and Two entire Brigades of Artillery. The Second Brigade British encamped upon the Left of the First, and the Brigade of Gall having been drawn from the East Shore to occupy the Ground where Frazer's Corps had been on Three Mile Point, the Line became complete, extending from the Shore to the westernmost Part of Mount Hope. On the same Day Major-General Reidesdal encamped on the East Shore in a parallel Line with Three Mile Point, having pushed the Reserve forward near the Rivulet which is on the East of Mount Independence. The Enemy cannonaded the Camps of Mount Hope and of the German Reserve most Part of the Day, but without Effect.

July 4. The Army worked hard at their Communications, and got up the Artillery, Tents, Baggage and Provisions. The Enemy at Intervalls continued the Cannonade upon the Camps, which was not in any Instance returned.

The Thunderer Radeau carrying the Battering Train and Stores, having been warped up from Crown Point, arrived this Day, and immediately began to land the Artillery.

July 5. Lieutenant Twiss, the commanding Engineer, was ordered to reconnoitre Sugar Hill on the South West Side of the Communication from Lake George into Lake Champlain. It had appeared from the First to be a very advantageous Post; and it is now known that the Enemy had a Council some Time ago upon the Expediency of possessing

Supposition that it was impossible for a Corps to be established there in Force. Lieutenant Twiss reported this Hill to have the entire Command of the Works and Buildings both of Ticonderoga and Mount Independence; that the Ground might be levelled so as to receive Cannon; and that a Road to convey them, though difficult, might be made practicable in Twenty-four Hours. This Hill also entirely commanded in Reverse the Bridge of Communication, saw the exact Situation of the Vessels, nor could the Enemy during the Day make any material Movement or Preparation without being discovered, and even having their Numbers counted.

It was immediately determined that a Battery should be raised upon Sugar Hill for light Twenty-four Pounders, medium Twelves, and Eight-Inch Howitzers. This very arduous Work was carried on so rapidly, that the Battery would have been ready the next Day.

It is a Duty in this Place to do some Justice to the Zeal and Activity of Major-General Phillips, who had the Direction of the Operation; and having mentioned that most valuable Officer, I trust it cannot be thought a Digression to add, that it is to his judicious Arrangements and indefatigable Pains, during the general Superintendency of Preparations which Sir Guy Carleton entrusted to him in the Winter and Spring, that the Service is indebted for its present Forwardness; the Prevalence of contrary Winds and other Accidents having rendered it impossible for any Necessaries prepared in England for the Opening of the Campaign yet to reach the Army.

July 6. Soon after Day-light an Officer arrived express on board the Royal George, where in the Night I took my Quarters as the most central Situation, with Information from Brigadier Frazer that the Enemy were retiring, and that he was advancing with his Piquets, leaving Orders for the Brigade to follow as soon as they could accoutre, with Intention to pursue by Land. This Movement was very soon discernable, as were the British Colours which the Brigadier had fixed upon the Fort of Ticonderoga. Knowing how safely I could trust to that Officer's Conduct, I turned my chief Attention to the Pursuit by Water, by which Route I had Intelligence One Column were retiring in Two Hundred and Twenty Batteaux, covered by Five Armed Gallies.

The great Bridge of Communication, through which a Way was to be opened, was supported by Twenty-two sunken Piers of large Timber at nearly equal Distances: The Spaces between were filled by separate Floats, each about Fifty Feet long and Twelve Feet wide, strongly fastened together by Chains and Rivets, and also fastened to the sunken Piers. Before this Bridge was a Boom made of very large Pieces of round Timber, fastened together by rivetted Bolts and double Chains made of Iron an Inch and Half Square.

The Gun Boats were immediately moved forward, and the Boom and one of the intermediate Floats were cut with great Dexterity and Dispatch: And Commodore Luwidge, with the Officers and Seamen in his Department, pa taking the general Animation, a Passage was found in Half an Hour for the Frigates also, through Impediments, which the Enemy had been labouring Ten Months together to make impenetrable. During these Operations Major General Reidesel had passed to Mount Independence, with the Corps of Breymen and Part of the Left Wing. He was directed to proceed by Land to sustain Brigadier Frazer, or to act more to the Left, if he saw it expedient so to do. The 62d Regiment British, and the Brunswick Regiment of Prince Frederic were left at Ticonderoga and Mount Independence, in the Place of the Parties of Frazer's Brigade, which had remained in Possession of the Stores, and the Rest of the Army were ordered to follow up the River, as they could be collected, without Regard to the Place of Corps in the Line. About Three in the Afternoon I arrived with the Royal George and Inflexible, and the best sailing Gun Boats and Batteaux at South Bay, within Three Miles of Skenesborough, at which latter Place I learned the Enemy were posted in a stockaded Fort, and their armed Gallies at the Falls below.

The foremost Regiments, viz. the 9th, 20th, and

with Intention of turning the Fort and cutting off the Retreat of the Enemy, but their precipitate Flight rendered this Manoeuvre ineffectual. The Gun Boats and Frigates continued their Course to Skenesborough Falls. Captain Carter, with Part of his Brigade of Gun Boats immediately attacked the Gallies, and with so much Spirit that Two of them very soon struck, the other Three were blown up; and the Enemy having previously prepared combustible Materials, set Fire to the Fort, Mills, Store-houses, Batteaux, &c. and retired with the Detachment left for that Purpose, the Main Body having gone off, when the Troops were ascending the Mountain. A great Quantity of Provision and some Arms were here consumed, and most Part of their Officers Baggage was burned, sunk or taken. Their Loss in the Attack is not known; about Thirty Prisoners were made, among which were Two wounded Officers. During these Operations upon the Right, Brigadier Frazer had continued his Pursuit on the Road to Castletown till One o'clock, having marched in a very hot Day from Four in the Morning. Some Stragglers of the Enemy had been picked up, from whom the Brigadier learnt that their Rear Guard was composed of chosen Men, and commanded by Colonel Francis, one of their best Officers. While the Men were refreshing Major General Reidesel came up, and Arrangements having been concerted for continuing the Pursuit, Brigadier Frazer moved forward again, and during the Night lay upon his Arms in an advantageous Situation.

July 7. At Three in the Morning he renewed his March, and about Five his advanced Scouts discovered the Enemy's Centries, who fired their Pieces and joined their Main Body. The Brigadier observing a Commanding Ground on the Left of his Light Infantry, immediately ordered it to be possessed by that Corps; and a considerable Body of the Enemy attempting the same, they met. The Enemy were driven back to their original Post. The advanced Guard under Major Grant were by this Time engaged, and the Grenadiers were advanced to sustain them, and to prevent the Right Flank from being turned. The Brigadier remained on the Left, where the Enemy, aided by Logs and Trees, defended themselves long. After being dislodged and prevented getting to the Castletown Road by the Grenadiers, they rallied and renewed the Action. They were again driven, and attempted to retreat by Pittsford Mountain; but the Grenadiers scrambled up what had appeared an inaccessible Part of the Ascent, and gained the Summit before them. This threw them into Confusion. They were still nevertheless greatly superior in Number, and consequently in Extent, and the Brigadier, in momentary Expectation of the Arrival of the Germans, had latterly weakened his Left to support his Right. At this critical Moment Major General Reidesel arrived with the Foremost of his Column, viz. the Chasseur Company and Eighty Grenadiers and Light Infantry. His Judgement instantly pointed to him the Course to take. He extended upon Brigadier Frazer's Left Flank. Major Berner led the Chasseurs into Action with great Gallantry, and they were equally well sustained. The Enemy fled on all Sides, leaving dead upon the Field Colonel Francis and many other Officers, and upwards of Two Hundred Private Men. Above Six Hundred were wounded, many of whom perished in the Woods attempting to get off; and One Colonel, Seven Captains, Ten Subalterns, and Two Hundred and Ten Men, were made Prisoners. The Number of the Enemy before the Action amounted, by the Report of the Prisoners, to Two Thousand and Men, and they were strongly posted. The British Detachment under Brigadier Frazer, (the Parties left at Ticonderoga the Day before not having been able to rejoin) consisted only of Eight Hundred and Fifty Fighting Men. The bare Relation of so signal an Action is sufficient for its Praise. Should the Attack against such Inequality of Numbers before the Germans came up seem to require Explanation, it is to be considered that the Enemy might have escaped by Delay; that the advanced Guard found themselves on a sudden too near the Enemy to avoid Action without retreating; and that the Brigadier had supposed the German Troops to be very near. The Difference of Time in their Arrival was merely accidental. Major-General Reidesel and those he commanded pressed for a Share of Glory, and they arrived

to this Event, that the Exertions of Brigadier Frazer were but a Continuance of that uniform Intelligence, Activity, and Bravery, which distinguish his Character upon all Occasions, and entitle him to be recommended in the most particular Manner to His Majesty's Notice. The other Officers and Soldiers of this Corps have prevented any Distinctions of Individuals by a general and equal Display of Spirit.

On the same Day, (July 7) the Country People about Skenesborough having reported that Part of the Enemy were still retreating upon Wood Creek, the 9th Regiment was detached to take Post near Fort Anne, to observe their Motions. This was effected, though with much Difficulty, the Roads being extremely bad and the Bridges broken. The other Troops were employed all that Day and Night in dragging Fifty Batteaux over the Falls to facilitate the Movement of the Rest of the First Brigade to Fort Anne, to dislodge the Enemy there.

July 8. A Report was received from Lieutenant-Colonel Hill, commanding the 9th Regiment, that the Enemy had been reinforced in the Night by a considerable Body of fresh Troops; that he could not retire before them with his Regiment, but would maintain his Ground. The two remaining Regiments of the First Brigade under Brigadier Powell were ordered to quicken their March; and, upon second Intelligence of the Force of the Enemy, and Firing being heard, the 20th Regiment was ordered forward, and Major General Phillips, with some Pieces of Artillery, was sent to take the Command. A violent Storm of Rain, which lasted the whole Day, prevented these Troops from getting to Fort Anne so soon as was intended; but the Delay gave the 9th Regiment an Opportunity of distinguishing themselves by standing and repulsing an Attack of six Times their Numbers. The Enemy finding the Position not to be forced in Front, endeavoured to surround it; and, from the Superiority of their Numbers, that Inconvenience was to be apprehended, and Lieutenant-Colonel Hill therefore found it necessary to change his Ground in the Heat of Action. So critical an Order was executed by the Regiment with the greatest Steadiness and Bravery. The Enemy, after an Attack of Three Hours were totally repulsed with great Loss. They fled towards Fort Edward, setting Fire to Fort Anne, but leaving a Saw Mill and Block House in good Repair, which latter was afterwards possessed by the King's Troops. The 9th Regiment acquired, during their Expedition, about Thirty Prisoners, some Stores and Baggage, and the Colours of the Second Hampshire Regiment. The Accidents to counter-balance these several Successes are few. The Service has lost an Officer of great Gallantry and Experience in Major Grant. The other Officers killed are also to be much regretted. Captain Montgomery of the 9th Regiment, an Officer of much Merit, was wounded in the Leg early in the Action, and was in the Act of being dressed by the Surgeon, when the Regiment changed Ground; being unable to help himself, he and the Surgeon were taken Prisoners. I hear he has been well treated, and is in a fair Way of recovering at Albany. The wounded Officers and Men in general here are also likely to do well.

July 9 and 10. The Army much fatigued, many Parts of it having wanted their Provisions for Two Days, almost the Whole their Tents and Baggage, assembled in their present Position. The Right Wing occupies the Height of Skenesborough in two Lines, covered on the Right Flank by Reidesel's Dragoons, *en Potence*; the Left Flank to Wood Creek. The Brunswick Troops, under Major General Reidesel, are upon Castleton River with Breymen's Corps, upon the Communication of Roads towards Pulteney and Rutland. The Regiment of Hesse Hanau are at the Head of Fast Creek, to preserve the Communication with the Camp at Castleton, and secure the Batteaux. Brigadier Frazer's Corps is in the Center to move on either Wing of the Army.

The Remains of Ticonderoga Army are at Fort Edward, where they have been joined by considerable Corps of fresh Troops.

Roads are opening to march to them by Fort Anne, and the Wood Creek is clearing of fallen Trees, sunken Stones, and other Obstacles, to give Passage to Batteaux carrying Artillery, Stores, Provisions

and Camp-Equipage. The Spirit and Zeal of the Troops are sufficient to surmount them. In the mean Time all possible Diligence is using at Ticonderoga to get Gun Boats, Batteaux and Provision Vessels, into Lake George. A Corps of the Army will be ordered to penetrate by that Route, which will be afterwards the Route of the Magazines; and a Junction of the Whole is intended at Fort Edward.

I transmit to your Lordship herewith Returns of the killed and wounded, and Lists of such Parts of the Artillery, Provisions and Stores taken from the Enemy as could be collected in so short a Time. By a written Account found in the Commissary's House at Ticonderoga, six Thousand odd Hundred Persons were fed from the Magazines the Day before the Evacuation.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

J. BURGOYNE.

List of the Killed and Wounded of the Troops under the Command of Lieutenant-General Burgoyne, from the 2d of July to the 8th, 1777.

July 2. Captain Frazer's Rangers. 1 Indian killed. 1 Lieutenant, 3 Indians, wounded. 1 Rank and File Prisoner.

July 6. Royal Artillery. 1 Lieutenant, 1 Rank and File, killed. 1 Rank and File wounded.

British Brigadier-General Frazer's Corps.

Light Infantry. 1 Lieutenant, 1 Serjeant, 10 Rank and File, killed. 1 Major, 2 Captains, 2 Lieutenants, 4 Serjeants, 74 Rank and File, wounded.

Grenadiers. 11 Rank and File killed. 1 Major, 3 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 4 Serjeants, 35 Rank and File, wounded.

2 Companies of the 24th Regiment present. 1 Major, 3 Rank and File, killed. 2 Serjeants wounded.

Total. 1 Major, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Serjeant, 24 Rank and File, killed. 2 Majors, 5 Captains, 5 Lieutenants, 10 Serjeants, 109 Rank and File, wounded.

Germans, Lieutenant-Colonel Breyman's Corps.

July 7. De la Compagnie des Chasseurs. 4 Rank and File killed. 1 Lieutenant, 6 Rank and File, wounded.

Du Bataillon de L'Infanterie legere. 3 Rank and File killed. 4 Rank and File wounded.

Des Grenadiers. 2 Rank and File killed. 1 Serjeant, 1 Rank and File, wounded.

Total. 9 Rank and File killed. 1 Lieutenant, 1 Serjeant, 11 Rank and File, wounded.

July 8. 9th Regiment. 1 Lieutenant, 1 Serjeant, 11 Rank and File, killed. 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 19 Rank and File, wounded. 1 Captain, 1 Surgeon, Prisoners.

Total of the Killed and Wounded in the above Actions. 1 Major, 3 Lieutenants, 2 Serjeants, 45 Rank and File, 1 Indian, killed. 2 Majors, 6 Captains, 9 Lieutenants, 11 Serjeants, 140 Rank and File, 3 Indians, wounded. 1 Captain, 1 Surgeon, 1 Rank and File, Prisoners.

British Officers killed and wounded.

July 2. 53d Regiment. Lieutenant Haughton wounded.

July 6. Royal Artillery. Second Lieutenant Cleland killed. Volunteer Sutton wounded.

K I L L E D.

July 7. Major Grant, 24th Regiment.

Lieutenant Douglas, 29th Regiment.

Lieutenant Hoggart, of the Marines.

W O U N D E D.

Light Infantry. Captain Harris, 54th Regiment.

Captain Craig, 47th Ditto.

Major Earl of Balcarras, 53d Ditto.

Lieutenant Cullon, 53d Ditto.

Lieutenant Jones, 62d Ditto.

Grenadiers. Captain Stapylton, 9th Ditto.

Lieutenant Row, 9th Ditto.

Major Ackland, 20th Ditto.

Lieutenant Steele, 29th Ditto.

Captain Ross, 34th Ditto.

Lieutenant Richardson, 34th Ditto.

Captain Shrimpton, 62d Ditto.

Volunteer Lindsay.

K I L L E D.

July 8. Lieutenant Westrop, 9th Regiment.